

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1 through 7 and 14 through 16.

Please amend claims 8 through 13, 17, and 18 as follows:

1. (CANCELED)

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CANCELED)

4. (CANCELED)

5. (CANCELED)

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CANCELED)

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as set forth in ~~claim 7~~ claims 17 or 18 wherein said step of selecting an input attaching parameter includes selecting an attachment location for attaching an upper attachment bracket portion of the instrument panel support structure relative to the vehicle.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as set forth in ~~claim 7~~ claims 17 or 18 wherein said step of selecting an input attaching parameter includes selecting an attachment location for securing a center support bracket portion of the instrument panel support structure relative to the vehicle.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as set forth in ~~claim 7~~ claims 17 or 18 wherein said step of selecting an input attaching parameter includes selecting an attachment location for securing an outer portion of the instrument panel support structure relative to the vehicle.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as set forth in ~~claim 7~~ claims 17 or 18 wherein said step of selecting an input a locating parameter includes defining a centerline location for a center portion of the instrument panel support structure relative to the vehicle.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as set forth in ~~claim 7~~ claims 17 or 18 wherein said step of selecting an input a locating parameter includes defining a centerline location for a driver side portion of the instrument panel support structure relative to the vehicle.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as set forth in ~~claim 7~~ claims 17 or 18 wherein said step of selecting an input a locating parameter includes defining a centerline location for a passenger side portion of the instrument panel support structure relative to the vehicle.

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CANCELED)

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as set forth in claim 16 including  
the step of parametric design of an instrument panel support structure for an instrument panel in a  
vehicle comprising the steps of:

selecting a vehicle body style for the vehicle from a vehicle library stored in a  
memory of a computer system;

orienting an occupant within the vehicle body;

orienting a steering column within the vehicle body;

selecting a locating parameter for locating an instrument panel support structure  
within the vehicle body;

selecting an attaching parameter for attaching the instrument panel support  
structure within the vehicle body;

selecting a predetermined condition for the instrument panel support structure  
within the vehicle body;

electronically generating a parametric design of an instrument panel support  
structure using the locating parameter, the attaching parameter and the predetermined condition;

packaging an instrument panel component within the parametric design of the  
instrument panel support structure;

determining if the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure  
meets a predetermined criteria using a computer-aided analytical technique;

determining if the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure should be changed if the predetermined criteria is not met;

determining if a parameter should be changed if the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure should be changed;

modifying the parameter if the parameter should be changed; and

using a computer-aided engineering analytical technique to determine whether the design of the instrument panel support structure meets a predetermined criteria.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as set forth in claim 16 including the step of parametric design of an instrument panel support structure for an instrument panel in a vehicle comprising the steps of:

selecting a vehicle body style for the vehicle from a vehicle library stored in a memory of a computer system;

orienting an occupant within the vehicle body;

orienting a steering column within the vehicle body;

selecting a locating parameter for locating an instrument panel support structure within the vehicle body;

selecting an attaching parameter for attaching the instrument panel support structure within the vehicle body;

selecting a predetermined condition for the instrument panel support structure within the vehicle body;

electronically generating a parametric design of an instrument panel support structure using the locating parameter, the attaching parameter and the predetermined condition;

packaging an instrument panel component within the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure;

determining if the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure meets a predetermined criteria using a computer-aided analytical technique;

determining if the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure should be changed if the predetermined criteria is not met;

determining if a parameter should be changed if the parametric design of the instrument panel support structure should be changed;

modifying the parameter if the parameter should be changed; and

using a computer-aided human factors analytical technique to determine whether the design of the instrument panel support structure meets a predetermined criteria.